

RETNS Board of Management Meeting, 17 May, 2016 - Report to the School Community

25th Anniversary: Final plans were made for the celebrations marking 25 years of RETNS, which of course took place on Friday. Many thanks to staff, parents, past pupils and other members of our community who volunteered time, resources and generous gifts, as well as to all those who came along during the day and the evening to make the celebrations so successful. Special thanks also to our children, who worked so hard to make the school look fantastic on the day.

School Finances: Having celebrated, we need to get back to the business of raising much-needed funds for our school. The BoM would like to thank those parents who pay the voluntary contribution, which makes a vital contribution to our school, and all those who give regularly through various fundraising activities. We need to do more, however, because the school is presently short of funds. The date for a forthcoming 'brainstorming' session will be announced soon, following which a list of events and activities will be planned. Please get involved and contribute in whatever way you can.

Website: The BoM discussed proposals to improve/upgrade the school website over the summer.

Pre- and After-School Care: Many thanks to all parents who participated in the recent online survey, which generated a high response rate. After studying the results of the survey, however, the BoM has determined that there is insufficient demand to support the on-site childcare service proposed by Sherpa Kids.

Enrolment: The revised enrolment policy has been ratified by Educate Together, adopted and posted on the school website. The BoM discussed how important it is that parents are fully aware of the revised policy and its implications. To this end, the BoM decided to draw up an explanatory note, which will be circulated to the school community shortly.

Front of School: Further discussions were had about the area in front of the school. The signs will be improved, not least as a result of the children's competition to design a safety sign to be posted by the gate. Improvements to the surface, parking and access for pedestrians are being costed.

Feeder school status: The BoM discussed the possibility of seeking to acquire feeder-school status for some second-level schools. Such status would give preference for admission to children from RETNS and so can be a way to improve options for RETNS families, who face a shortage of schools aligned with the Educate Together ethos. The BoM will draw up a list of potential schools to which inquiries about feeder-school status can be made.

The BoM also considered some routine matters, which for reasons of confidentiality are not included in this report.

RETNS Board of Management (bom@retns.ie).